

Architecture, Design & Materials Studio

Spring 2006, CMU, Arch #48-206, M/W/F 1:30-4:20
Class Website: www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/48-205

Coordinator: Kai Gutschow
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Off. Hr: M/W 12:30-1:30pm & by appt. in MM307

(1/10/06)

S'06 STUDIO DESCRIPTION

CONSTRUCTION: "The action of framing, devising, or forming by putting together parts systematically; see also assembly, building, structure, erection, conformation, disposition."

OVERVIEW:

Building on the fall "Composition" studio, the spring semester is concerned with more in-depth understanding and development of designs for small-scale buildings, now informed by greater knowledge related to materials and the act of construction. We seek to explore the aesthetic and experiential meaning of materials (WHY?), and the technical knowledge related to the use of materials and the processes of construction (HOW?). The creative opportunities and design implications of using varied materials, structural systems, and assembly techniques are elaborated, especially as they determine the *artistic, conceptual, poetic, creative, spatial, and experiential* aspects of architecture. The studio and the lectures focus on the application and integration of knowledge acquired in a parallel "Materials & Assembly" course.

Objectives: To analyze and think critically about the role that materials, assembly methods, and construction play in existing architectures, and applying this with intent as part of a larger, synthetic and creative design process in your own designs. To define strategies for problem solving, conceptual development and poetic expression at all levels of the design process, large and small, conceptual and real. To develop structured arguments about your design intentions and the means to communicate them effectively, especially with regard to materials and construction. As in the fall, the focus of both the teaching and learning must be in 6 areas: 1) Attitude; 2) Verbal Acuity; 3) Drawing Clarity and Power; 4) Robust Models; 5) Conceptual Clarity and Richness of Detail; 6) Theory.

PROJECTS:

Each of the studios will approach the theme of design, materials and assembly differently, but all students are expected to explore a broad spectrum of design strategies at every opportunity. The instructors will present a series of lectures and guide a series of discussions based on required readings.

The semester will consist of a single extended project, broken down into distinct phases of research and design:

- Phase I: all studios will design a portable or demountable library pod using a 40ft. container. The focus will be on the human body encountering the materiality of books and architecture in a small scale design. The problem will include distinct research into a limited palette of materials.

- Phase II: research results from the first phase, especially knowledge about materials, and the interaction with books, will be used for the design a neighborhood library. We will focus on the role of materials and assembly in reference to context, function, experience, space, and meaning. Near the end of the project, we will do further research into the design of a building detail (e.g entry, wall section, shelving or circulation desk). Details about the site, program, and final requirements will be announced after Phase I.

